



FACT SHEET



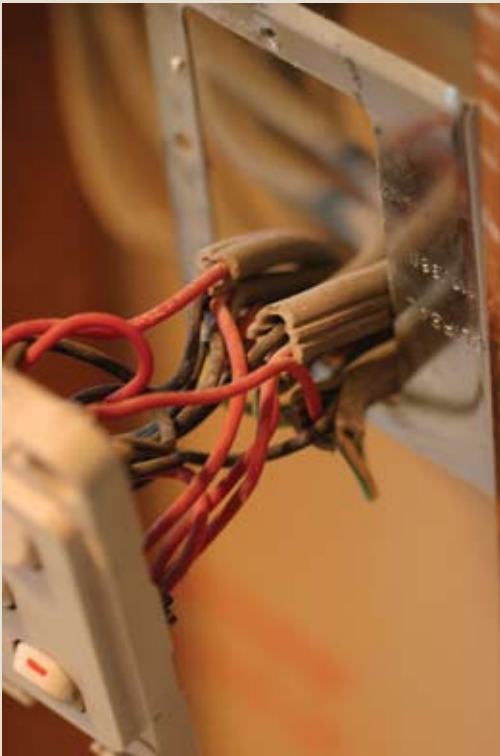
Residual Current Device Building Condition Assessment Program

A residual current device, also known as a safety switch or RCD, provides high level personal protection from electric shock. It does this by immediately switching off the flow of electricity after contact with a live wire or faulty appliance.

(WorkSafe 2002).

- Fuses or circuit breakers do not offer the same level of protection against faults involving current flow to earth. This is because a fuse or circuit breaker only 'trips' when it detects a high level of electrical leakage.





An RCD will stop the current almost instantly after detecting a very low level of current leakage – such as when an individual accidentally contacts a live wire or appliance.

- An RCD does not guarantee protection against all electric shocks. If contact is made with both the Active and the Neutral conductors while handling faulty plugs or appliances an RCD may not detect current leakage and interrupt the flow of current.

- You should therefore always have electrical equipment such as toasters, fridges, televisions and washing machines tested by a licensed electrician to determine whether the appliance is 'tripping' the RCD when it should.

- Only licensed electricians are qualified and permitted to install and test RCDs.

